MONTEREY NEWS

March 2019
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVIIII · Number 3

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Swap Shop, Church foyer

Hannah Jacobson-Hardy

Greener pastures at Rawson Brook Farm. Read the news on page 14.

The main topic of discussion, however, was the proposal to permit marijuana cultivation and related businesses in the agricultural/residential district.
Marijuana Buisnesses page 6-7

The clientele did not fit the tie-died, dangly-earringed, bushy-haired stereotype that I still sometimes associate with potheads.
Visit to the Pot Shop page 8

Last summer Valerie and Lissa walked 315 miles of the El Camino de Santiago historic pilgrimage in Spain.
Community Potluck Dinner page 17

In some ways we're like the trees along our roadways. There are holes in people, families, and family trees, too.
Here's a Thought page 18

To walk upon the earth again,
Perhaps I'll learn to dance!
Stopping for Death page 15

Yes, the rumors are true. Starting February 27, we will be offering Roadside dinner specials.
News from the Roadside page 13

In 2018, the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund awarded $74,000 to eighteen students.
McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarships page 12

Daylight Savings Time
"Spring Ahead"
Sunday, March 10, at 2 a.m.

Recently I was reminded of why I wanted to serve on the Monterey Select Board. We were invited on a walk through the library construction site.
In My View-Carol Edelman page 3

When I joined the select board I was happily looking forward to working with Kenn and Carol. On a personal level that is no longer the case.
In My View-Don Coburn page 4-5

An acquaintance of hers suggested she try going to church. "Why would I do that?" she asked. "I feel bad enough about myself as it is."
From the Meetinghouse page 22

Did you know that the Stockbridge Indians who lived in Stockbridge and Great Barrington came to Monterey and Tyringham to make maple sugar?
Native Maple Sugaring page 19

Blue Rider Stables is a not-for-profit farm in Egremont dedicated to offering an educational environment where people and animals can interact.
Blue Rider Stables page 7

Town Office Elections

Elected town offices to be filled in May are the following:

Board of Appeals, 5 years
Board of Assessors, 3 years
Board of Assessors, 1 year
Board of Health, 3 years
Cemetery Comm., 3 years
Constable, 3 years
Finance Comm., 3 years
Library Trustee, 3 years
Library Trustee, 3 years
Moderator, 1 year
Parks Comm. (2), 3 years
Parks Comm., 2 years
Parks Comm., 1 year
Planning Board, (2), 5 years
Planning Board, 3 years
Select Board, 3 years
Tax Collector, 3 years
Tree Warden, 1 year

Some positions may be remainders of full terms. Some positions may have incumbents who will be candidates for reelection.

To get on the ballot for any of these positions a candidate must be nominated by one of the party caucuses or gather at least twenty-five certifiable voters' signatures on a nomination paper filed with the town clerk.

Nomination papers can be picked up at the town clerk's office no later than March 20. The last day to file nomination papers is April 5. The last day to object or withdraw nomination papers is April 7. The last day to register to vote is April 30.

The annual town meeting is Saturday, May 4, 2019. Remember that the town election ballot is on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at the Monterey Town Hall.

Democratic Party Caucus

The Democratic party will hold their caucus for candidates for town offices on March 23, at 10 a.m., in the church basement.

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Republican Party Caucus

The Monterey Republican Party will caucus on Saturday, March 23, at 1:30 p.m., in the church basement, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the town elections in May. Anyone wishing to run for local office should please contact either Mark Makuc by email at mjjminmonterey@yahoo.com, or call 413-528-1382; or email Mari Enoch at enoch.mari@yahoo.com, to declare your intention to run. The Republican party will consider all candidates regardless of political affiliation for nomination. Please consider running for office and helping the town so it is governed by our own citizens.

—Mark Makuc

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday .....9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday .....2–5 p.m.
Thursday .....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday .. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

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Candidate Statements

Town elections are upon us once again. Elections for town offices are on Tuesday, May 7, following town meeting the prior Saturday. If you have been nominated for an office, or filed nomination papers for yourself, you may want to publish a candidate's statement in the *Monterey News*. The paper will be happy to publish candidate statements in either the April or May issue.

The *News* would also be pleased to publish letters of support for candidates. It would be helpful if you know of others who are intending to write in support of the same candidate to agree on one letter to be published.

Also, please feel free to offer a perspective on any issues to be decided at town meeting by sending a letter to the *News*. Part of the mission of the paper is to encourage community conversations.

The deadline for the *Monterey News* is typically on the 20th of each month. Your letters must be signed, and can be emailed (preferred) to MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or sent first class, to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245.

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In My View
Best of times, worst of times

Recently I was reminded of why I wanted to serve on the Monterey Select Board. We were invited on a walk through the library construction site, and I greatly enjoyed looking at the impressive work-in-progress, learning and schmoozing with trustees, the construction supervisor, and project manager. Best time I've had as a town official in a while. Last week, I also participated in a roundtable discussion of school funding challenges with officials from the five towns, business manager and superintendent of our Southern Berkshire Regional School District. This week, I attended a planning board meeting where a dozen residents engaged in lively discussion of zoning bylaws. Working on housing concerns, environmental questions, infrastructure puzzles, matters complex or mundane, financial or philosophical, considering multiple points of view. Getting deeply involved in the meaningful operations of Monterey in service of the community has been productive, thought-provoking, and rewarding most of the time since my election in May 2016.

However, the past several months have also become the worst of times, and I now anticipate every upcoming select board meeting with a sense of dread. Don Coburn creates a hostile environment, repeatedly bringing nasty accusations against a town employee and the other select board member. In public meetings and in correspondence, he has insulted and berated members of committees, employees, and residents. I had hoped that his experience and intelligence would enhance the work we are doing within the town, but I am disappointed. His attitude toward others is frequently dismissive, condescending, arrogant, mocking, and rude. Because I am strongly averse to conflict, I have requested on numerous occasions that we put aside personal disputes, remember that we have important work to do, and just get on with it. When we are fallible, make mistakes, we fix them, do our best and move on. I have stated repeatedly that we are among colleagues, friends, and neighbors, and need to treat each other with respect. We are tasked with working for the common good of the residents.

Don's verbal and written attacks continue and it has become difficult and miserable, if not impossible, to continue to function effectively as a select board under these circumstances. I ask that Don resign from the board.

—Carol Lewis Edelman
Chair, Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: In My View— *This month we have columns by all three select board members. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

Youth Summer Cultural Grants
March 15 Deadline

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has set March 15 as the deadline for applications to the Simple Gifts Fund, a fund of the foundation. The fund awards grants of $200 to $800 to young people aged thirteen to nineteen, who are residents of the Berkshire Taconic region, for summer enrichment programs of cultural or creative endeavors.

The Simple Gifts Fund was established in honor of Bill Crofut by his family. Bill was a beloved local folksinger who died in 1999. He had a deep understanding of and empathy for the dreams and aspirations of young people. He wanted to do something that could help them achieve their goals and knew that even small amounts of money could help them purchase an instrument, study dance, or participate in a summer program. He loved to foster those small steps to further great passions.

Applications and guidelines are available online at BerkshireTaconic.org/SearchGrants.

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Retaining Wall Design
Foundation Design
Construction Layout
Driveway Design & Permitting
Scenic Mountain Act Permitting
Wetland Permitting
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

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berkshiregeotech@gmail.com

In My View
Perhaps Truth Can Help

In February the *Monterey News* published a letter from Pam Johnson urging first that I resign because in August I "acted in an angry belligerent manner, posturing like a prosecuting attorney, trying to 'catch them out' and going so far as to impugn the integrity of the (broadband) committee members." She was referring to the select board meeting at which the broadband committee was presenting its recommendations.

Perhaps Pam was upset because her husband was a member of the broadband committee. But, as the recording and minutes clearly show, my remarks were not addressed to the committee as a whole, but rather to the chairman of the committee, Cliff Weiss. I was frankly shocked when, at the start of the meeting, George Cain, a member of the finance committee, revealed that he had just discovered that Cliff was in business with Fiber Connect in Monterey, offering through the latter a product manufactured by a company in which Cliff held a 20% interest. Cliff, an experienced businessman, and Fiber Connect had agreed to split the income revenue from sales of Cliff's product. This conduct violated the MA Conflicts of Interest Law and thus endangered the $1.1 million grant the town is hoping to get from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. I was also annoyed because I had recently received from Kenn a memorandum demonstrating that he and Cliff had been negotiating with Fiber Connect on behalf of the town without authorization from the select board. The select board later learned from town counsel that the negotiation violated state law because it was not preceded by the necessary re-issuance of a Request For Proposals (RFP). Cliff, abetted by Kenn, tried to argue that the meeting with Fiber Connect was merely informational and not a negotiation. And this despite the repeated phrase in the memorandum summarizing the meeting that, as to each item, "It was agreed that," etcetera. They were both being dishonest, and dishonesty does not breed trust.

Recently, Kenn admitted at a select board meeting that he had known of the improper relationship between Cliff's Company and Fiber Connect since the preceding April. Monterey's employee manual requires that all employees "who obtain knowledge of facts demonstrating improper governmental actions should raise the issue first with their supervisor, the select board . . . or the appropriate governmental agency responsible for investigating such improper action." Kenn kept the information to himself for months instead of advising the select board or the State Ethics Commission.

While admitting his knowledge of the facts showing Cliff's obvious conflict of interest, Kenn actually asserted that he did not know it was a conflict of interest. Do you really believe that claim? Our employee manual states this: "The State Ethics Commission requires every municipal employee to complete the conflict of interest training program every two years." And "upon completion of the training (which Kenn has done twice) a completion certificate must be printed out (by the employee) and returned to the town clerk." I should note that Cliff resigned as chairman shortly after his conflict of interest was revealed by George Cain.

Another admission of Kenn's is problematic. Fiber Connect's standard fee for connecting a house is $999. At a public meeting, Kenn admitted, or perhaps claimed, that he had paid only $500 for his connection. As our employee manual notes, "Accepting gifts in excess of $50 in value has been determined by the State Ethics Commission to violate the State Ethics Law." Under that law a municipal employee, such as Kenn, is prohibited particularly from accepting such a gift because of his or her public position. Is there a connection between that event and Kenn pressing on two separate occasions for the town to pay Fiber Connect $999 plus a few thousand dollars for telephone equipment in town hall to replace that provided by Verizon?

Next Pam states as a reason for my resignation that "[he]continued with belligerent behavior in meetings and his

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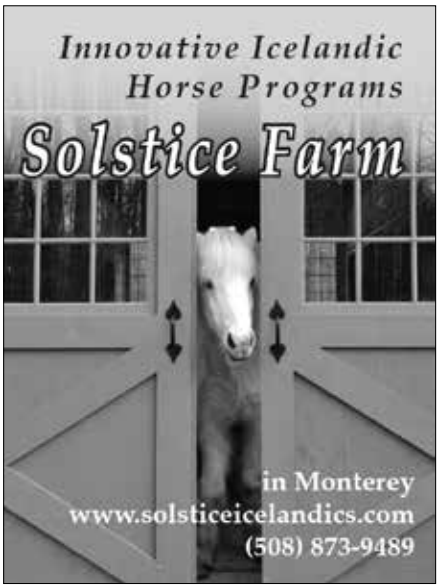

interactions with elected and appointed officials, employees, and residents have frequently been contentious and disrespectful." As of this writing, Pam has been at two meetings since I joined the select board; so it is obvious that her generalization about my behavior at meetings is mostly based on what others may have told her. She has no first hand knowledge of my relationships with others outside the meetings. So, what is the truth about my relations with other town employees and residents, a subject about which she has no direct knowledge?

I have not had conflict of any kind with anyone in the government or the town apart from Kenn, Carol, and Melissa Noe. I have criticized each of them on occasion, and, to put it mildly, they don't react well to criticism.

Kenn has a penchant for asserting as fact things for which he has no support, and when he wants to create a narrative for one of his agendas, flat out lying. He has frequently accused me of blocking constructive action by the select board. Our meeting minutes provide absolutely no support for that attack. As an example of my reasonably useful contributions since I've been involved in town government, I cite these examples.

As a member of the Monterey Planning Board, I recognized because of my legal training and experience that in approving Hume's site plan the board had imposed illegal conditions to which Hume was objecting. Hume sued, and I persuaded Kenn to bring the rest of the select board and the town attorney to a meeting with the planning board. I explained why the conditions were illegal, town counsel agreed, and the illegal conditions were withdrawn and the case was settled. That saved Monterey thousands of dollars in legal fees that would have been spent defending against Hume's lawsuit.

After I joined the select board, the company serving as treasurer and accountant made a claim for $35,000 in additional fees above what its contract called for. At first the claim was opposed by the finance committee and two members of the select board, Kenn and me. Then, over my strenuous objection, and without consulting the Finance Committee, Kenn and Carol voted to pursue negotiations to settle the claim. While the negotiations were on going, I asked that we reconsider following that path. I emphasized again that under the contract the company was entitled to all of the money or none of it. And I asserted that a half-day arbitration would resolve the matter completely in the town's favor. Kenn changed his mind, and shortly thereafter the company withdrew its claim entirely.

My differences with Carol mostly concern her disinclination to call for votes clearly preserving our decisions and her rather blind acceptance of anything Melissa says about me.

As to Melissa, I have made clear that in my view she is often inappropriate in her conduct as an administrative aide. In particular, she has often been insubordinate and then lied grievously about me on each occasion when her or my conduct has been before the select board. She also uses her preparation of the minutes to create a narrative of our meetings designed to favor those she likes, or positions she supports, far too often omitting contrary material. For example, she omitted Kenn's admission of getting Fiber Connect's service for only $500. That error was corrected on my motion.

After the recent disciplinary hearing before the select board, a Montereyan gave me a copy of the 2015 draft report of the "Formation of Restructuring Committee." The members of this committee had been charged with the duty of reviewing the government operations and making recommendations for improvement. The members were Larry Klein, Bethany Mielke, Norma Champigny, Susan Gallant, Scott Jenssen, Bob and Muriel Lazzarini, Ray Tryon, and Steven Weisz. After complimenting Melissa as being bright and dedicated, they wrote: "However, it must be recognized that . . . she seems to lack basic interpersonal skills. This has caused immense problems for many trying to do the town's business." They added that "over the last few years, we have witnessed at least seven separate hostile interpersonal interactions that were large enough to hamper the proper functions of town hall. The administrative assistant was the common element in each of these conflicts."

Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us March 20 to hear Lissa McGovern, Ginney Miller, and Valerie Santay

They hiked the 315 mile pilgrimage trail, El Camino de Santiago.

See the community potluck supper article on page 5.

3rd Wednesdays, October–May
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
call Kyle Pierce, 528-9213

When I joined the select board I was happily looking forward to working with Kenn and Carol. On a personal level that is no longer the case. But nor is that the point. I was elected to do a job for all the residents of Monterey and that is precisely what I plan to do until my term ends.

—Don Coburn
Monterey Select Board

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Marijuana Businesses
Back to the Planning Board

The February 13 public hearing to address legal marijuana in the town bylaws raised more questions than it answered.

The eleven residents (a crowd by planning board standards) in attendance voiced concerns about how such businesses could change the character of the town, especially in terms of traffic, security, light pollution, signage, water use and discharge, and parking.

The fact that the proposed bylaw change would allow recreational marijuana cultivation "by-right" in the agricultural/residential district, which makes up most of the town, was the main point of contention.

The term "recreational marijuana cultivation", as used in the proposed bylaws, raised questions. While it seems to suggest small-scale cultivation for recreational use, the term, as defined in the bylaws, can include testing laboratories, product manufacturing, retail sales, or any other related business.

L. Marijuana Uses	AR	LS	B
Recreational Marijuana retail sales	N	N	BA
Medical Marijuana Retail sales	N	N	Y
Recreational Marijuana cultivation	Y	N	Y

While people did not seem opposed to recreational marijuana in principle, they noted that permitting related business raises novel legal, planning, and public safety issues, including:

How do existing right-to-farm bylaws apply to indoor versus outdoor cannabis growing? "This isn't like growing tomatoes," as board member Roger Tryon noted.

Is Monterey's infrastructure adequate to accommodate new, large-scale cannabis operations that may want to come here? The lack of lighting bylaws, and the limited capacity of the private water system in the village area, were cited, along with estimates that each plant could require nine hundred gallons of water and corresponding effluents.

Do the current layers of control—select board, local zoning, and Cannabis Commission Control regulations—have enough teeth to regulate an industry with so much money behind it? "Small towns are targets for big business," it was noted.

How much regulation over marijuana businesses can the town legally exert? This question seemed to be complicated by the fact that Monterey already voted in favor of recreational marijuana by a 63% majority. (On Question 4 of the November 2016 referendum.)

The meeting began with a presentation of the proposed new bylaw, which would allow retail sales of recreational marijuana only in the business district and only by special permit. (Medical marijuana sales would be permitted in there by-right.) It would also allow cultivation in the business district, which raised the specter of the old schoolhouse being used for such purposes.

The main topic of discussion, however, was the proposal to permit marijuana cultivation and related businesses in the agricultural/residential district. The possibility of large-scale, brightly lit, highly trafficked, and security-fenced facilities emerged.

"We thought we understood what agriculture was," said Bonner McAllester. "But this is different. It's like solar farms. When we think of agriculture, we don't think of industry and these great big metal structures." She pointed out that all kinds of products—from dog treats to soaps—can now be manufactured from CBD.

In response, the planning board pointed out that many of these issues are already regulated by the extensive regulations of the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC).

"I'm impressed with what the commission has done," said board co-chair Tom Sawyer, pointing to the sizeable (seventy-two page) document of CCC regulations. "You can't just say, 'Hey, I'm gonna open a pot shop.' It's a grueling business and there are a lot of regulations."

But people brought up the example of New Marlborough, which last year was faced with an application for a large cannabis compound that developers planned to rent to marijuana-related growing and processing companies. The issue created considerable opposition in the town, which last spring voted overwhelmingly on a six-month moratorium, now expired, in which to develop bylaws. Sheffield and Otis have also received applications for sizable marijuana facilities.

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Asked whether more zoning restrictions could have been added, board co-chair Steve Enoch said the board believed the existing restrictions are already stringent enough. He noted that the board also wanted to consider the will of the townspeople, who had voted to allow recreational sales.

But a number of people stressed the impact that big money could have, expressed a desire for greater autonomy from the state, and complained that they had not been adequately educated about the ramifications of commercial, recreational marijuana before voting Yes on Question 4.

"Is there anything in the zoning about size?" asked Mike Banner of Griswold Road. "My neighbor was talking about a 12,000 square foot greenhouse—between two residences."

While that application has since been withdrawn, it points to the urgency of the issue, according to Carol Edelman, a select board member who attended the hearing in her capacity as an interested resident.

"I feel strongly we should do this only by application, not by-right, as there are too many variables," said Edelman, citing many of the objections mentioned earlier. "These are some of the concerns that make me think we should regard this with a degree of caution, maybe add another layer of approval."

Although there was general agreement with the idea of an added layer of control, whether commercial marijuana cultivation and related businesses should be permitted in the A/R district at all, or allowed only by special application, remained an open question.

As the discussion closed, the planning board agreed to discuss the issue further with the town counsel, to take it up again in another hearing, and possibly vote on it at a future town meeting. The board also agreed to consider a suggestion to create a distinction between residential areas of town and strictly agricultural areas, perhaps by a residential overlay on the zoning map.

Susan Sellew of Rawson Brook Farm complimented the board on their "integrity, hard work and fair-mindedness." And the planning board invited the group to attend planning board meetings more often.

—Janet Jensen

Courtesy of Blue Rider Stable

Blue Rider Stables

There's a mammoth donkey with ears larger than you can imagine. Right next to him is a horse big enough for an adult to do a handstand on, and a tiny grey donkey. A Shetland/Morgan/Arab/Haflinger mix named Willie Wonka strolls by. Even though the steps to mount the horses are rainbow colored, and hundreds of hoof prints litter the ground, this isn't a dream—it's just a normal day for one of the many volunteers at Blue Rider Stables.

Blue Rider Stables is a not-for-profit farm in Egremont dedicated to offering an educational environment where people and animals can interact. There are seventeen equines, ranging from a Sicilian donkey, to an Icelandic horse, to a Belgian draft. What they have in common is that most were rescues that now have a life of educating and helping others. Many, such as Billy Boy, the lovable donkey, were saved from auctions, or were given to the farm when they didn't fit in with a family. Each horse has its own personality and job in the herd. Taquito the donkey can do anything a horse can, Rico, the horse, can have people do tricks on his back, and George, the mammoth donkey, greets and welcomes guests. The horses and donkeys share a field and barn together nearly all the time in a natural herd environment, except when a few are separated for feeding time. In addition to the equines, there's Pesto the cat and a small family of bunnies.

Blue Rider has many programs centered around getting to know horses and yourself. Programs range from groundwork with horses, to camps over school breaks, to a more intensive helper program where one learns all aspects of taking care of a horse. There are a variety of individual and group lessons available, as well as therapeutic riding for people with physical, mental, or emotional challenges. A top priority is safety for humans and horses, as well as communication between the two. An emphasis is put on care for the horses, as riding is just part of the fun. Even though it's not a dream, Blue Rider is a place where they come true for people and horses. Blue Rider Stables is located at 15 Farm Lane in South Egremont.

Autumn Snyder

George, Blue Rider's mammoth donkey

For more information you can call at (413) 528-5299, email at info@bluerider.org, or visit the website, bluerider.org/.

— Nadia Makuc

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

A Visit to the Pot Shop

Janet Jensen

As I was heading to Berkshire South around midday on February 13, I noticed there was no line at Theory Wellness, the pot store that opened earlier this year in Great Barrington. Heretofore, whenever I've passed by, the line has snaked through the parking lot, even during very cold windy days. Sometimes a police detail and outdoor heaters were employed.

So I pulled in. I had been wondering about this new business model, and had heard reports, but wanted to see it for myself before the Monterey Planning Board meeting on zoning for cannabis enterprises that very evening.

When I mentioned the lack of a line to the man who checked my driver's license before unlocking the door, he opined that the predicted storm was keeping people away. I had to present official identification in the entryway as well, where the complex, musky, and pungent aromas are already intense. Identification is required again before making a purchase.

Once inside, there was another short line forming to reach the six "budtenders" who were patiently and professionally advising customers, all whom appeared to be over fifty. The clientele did not fit the tie-died, dangly-earringed, bushy-haired stereotype that I still sometimes associate with potheads. And the budtenders seemed well-informed and responsible. When I wondered, for instance, whether the high-potency CBD edibles might be good for my boyfriend's aching back, the server immediately responded that these items are for personal use only—no sharing. He also mentioned that it was illegal to use any of the psychoactive products while driving.

Waiting in line gave me a chance to review the six-page menu, or "weedmap". For the psycho-active products—those that include THC (tetrahedral cannabinol)—color-coded icons indicate whether the strain skews more Sativa or Indica. The former, the weedmap explains, produces a more cerebral high, the latter, a more somatic one. The store offers edibles (gummy chews and honey), smokables, tinctures, extracts, topicals, cartridges for vape pipes, and other hardware and accessories. It offers tightly rolled joints, or "pre-rolleds", with names like Strawberry Fields, Jilly Bean, and Silver Mountain. Purchases are carefully recorded and secured in hermetically sealed plastic packaging. It's all quite slick.

The experience overwhelmed me with a sense of cognitive dissonance. I went to college in the early seventies, and if anyone from the future had given me a glimpse of the scene at Theory, I would have surely considered it a bizarre pipe dream—or a wildly utopian visage. But here it was—legal recreational marijuana cultivated for consistency and quality and dispensed with sophisticated marketing savvy and a bit of wit. Apparently, in the decades since my college days, vast amounts of expertise and energy have gone into generating ever-more-potent and distinct strains of the herb and delivery systems. And considerable sums of money.

Already the monetary dividends are being felt—after the first twelve weeks of operation, the fledgling industry had generated $36 million in sales in this state. The state tax for recreational marijuana is 20 percent. The large amounts of money behind this new industry was one of the concerns raised later at the Monterey Planning Board (see related story, page XX.)

When I later told planning board co-chair Tom Sawyer that I was quite impressed with Theory's operations, he credited much of that to the work of the state's Cannabis Control Commission for its comprehensive regulations.

Still, my sense of cognitive dissonance continues. It almost seems transgressive to write about pot, even though it is now legal here—although not across the state line and not at the federal level—and even though I am a mature, semi-retired woman unlikely to suffer adverse effects, and possibly benefit, from occasionally inhaling.

This kind of dissonance seems to affect the town as well, which voted for allowing commercial marijuana on Ques-

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tion 4 in the November 2016 election, by a vote of 330 to 192. But residents seemed to be having second thoughts by the time the planning hearing came around, given the possibility of large growing operations and a Pandora's box of unforeseen and unanticipated consequences.

"My first thought on this was, great. Jobs! Business!" said Mary Makuc at the hearing. "But then I called friends who said the infrastructure is not available—water, sewer, parking. They didn't want to see a big plant here." She said people are also concerned about how much say neighbors would have in the decision process.

"It's a huge change for this town," added Bonner McAllister. "We've never seen anything like this."

—Janet Jensen

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References *Sliding Scale*

with

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Lotus Palm School Certified

"The best massage I ever had." –E.D., Monterey

413-528-3798

Letters

What to Know about Monterey

I love Monterey, as do many of you. I love the lakes, the library, the community center, the history, the wildlife, and the people in Monterey. In the summer so many people come here because they love Monterey too, for the lakes and the fun that comes with them. If marijuana starts being grown or sold here, people might come here for it, and people will definitely talk about it. If one store did open up there'd be numerous articles and lots of attention. A place like this could give us something to boost our population, but do we really want to be known for marijuana?

Since last month, driving on Stockbridge Road in Great Barrington you automatically see the line of people waiting at Theory Wellness. If we had something like that in Monterey, that would be all that visitors really see. As the future of this town, I want to be known for our lake, and our art, and our people. I do not want to live in a town where the only thing other people care about is a drug. People can go to other places around the county if they want to buy marijuana, but let Monterey be the place people come to because they love it.

I truly hope that as I grow up, I get the chance to meet new people and talk about Monterey. I hope I can tell them about Solstice Farm, the Bidwell House, Greene Park, our new library, the events at the community center, and not about our marijuana growing facility or shop. So please, as you're considering continuing the marijuana moratorium think about the future community of our town.

—Nadia Makuc
Current and Future Resident of Monterey

Letters

I am extremely disappointed in the decision to publish Pam Johnson's letter in the February edition of the *Monterey News*. I do not personally know Don Coburn, and his behavior and interactions with others may very well be problematic...that is not for me to say.

However, for Ms. Johnson to take Mr. Coburn's words, conveyed in an email to her and others, and include them in her letter for all to read is a clear violation of his right to privacy. This email was meant for a few specific readers, and not for the entire population of Monterey. The editor should have recognized this crossed a line, and refrained from making this a matter of public sharing.

We should all be able to have the confidence that our private emails and correspondences will remain just that: private, for us to share as we see fit.

—Julie Kern

Editor's note: It was valuable that Ms. Kern brought up this question. It was my opinion that the email from Mr. Coburn to Ms. Johnson was written in his capacity as a public official, in response to a public meeting situation. However, I should have taken the extra step of asking Mr. Coburn's permission.

I followed up receipt of Ms. Kern's letter with an email to Mr. Coburn apologizing and asking if he would like a statement of apology to be published. In his reply, he said that he doubts that he would have objected, and that, in fact, he regards his email apology to be public speech, conforming to my initial interpretation.

However, I will be more careful with quoted content from other individuals in the future. —Stephen Moore, Editor.

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Events That Have Happened

The community center was busy in February with regular activities plus some special events including: the final in a three-part series of filmed history talks shown by the Bidwell House Museum; a meeting held by the Monterey Planning Board to discuss marijuana regulations for our zoning by-laws; a presentation on the REAL ID application process, heretofore puzzling but now clearly explained by Karen from AAA; a showing of Karen Allen's film *A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud*; a family mandala class with Susan Cain; and a program of folk music and stories by Tim Van Egmond.

Wendy Jensen

Gary Shaw, Mary Makuc, Bonner McAllester, and Libby Wolf had a rousing game of seated ping pong in February.

Events Coming Up

In March, regular activities will continue, and we also anticipate the coming of spring, as music will be a focus.

Songwriting Workshop

Two Sundays, March 10 and March 17, at 6:30 p.m. This two-part workshop is led by Robin O'Herin (robinoherin.com), accompanied by Wes Buckley. Sponsored by the MA Cultural Council.

Concert

Sunday, March 17, at 2 p.m. Singer/songwriter Linda Worster in concert. See page 11.

Folk Chorus

Oren Rosenthal continues his folk chorus every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. New choristers are welcome. We entertained at Kimball Farms last month so are now working on building a new repertoire.

Ongoing activities

Ping Pong: Adult ping pong is bouncing back and forth including every other Saturday, March 2, 16, and 30, from 2 to 4 p.m., and every other Thursday, March 7, and 21, 3:30 to 5:30. Please come and enjoy the thrill of play with your friends and neighbors. Free.

Darn Yarners: First and third Thursday of each month, March 7 and 21, 1 to 3 p.m. This is an informal group of fiber artists (knit, stitch, mend, spin, crochet, and such) meeting to work on individual projects in a somewhat social setting. No cost. Facilitated by Wendy Jensen.

Library Book group: Fourth Monday each month (March 25), at 7:30 p.m. This month's book is *City of Thieves* by David Benioff, and the book for April is *The Family on Beartown Road: a Memoir of Learning and Forgetting* by Elizabeth Cohen. No cost. Contact Laurie Shaw with questions at 528-0343.

More events are in the works for this spring—mosaics workshop, climate change conference hub, writing workshop, bird walk, basic knot-tying workshop, and more. Stay tuned!

See our Event Calendar: Visit us at any time through our website (ccmonterey.org), where you will find the event calendar, use policies, and other information, and where you can donate to the center through PayPal. You can always contact Mary Makuc, event coordinator, at 413-528-3600 or calendar@ccmontery.org. We thank you for your support.

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Monterey Cultural Council
Grants for 2019

"In Massachusetts, public funding for the arts, humanities, and sciences is provided through a central state agency, the Mass Cultural Council, and through a network of Local Cultural Councils [LCC] that serve every city and town in the state. LCCs also receive money to support programs from donations, fundraising events, and their local municipality.

The mission of the Mass Cultural Council is to promote excellence, education, diversity, and inclusion in the arts, humanities, and sciences to foster a rich cultural life for all Massachusetts residents and contribute to the vitality of our communities and economy."

The Monterey Cultural Council is pleased to announce that twenty-four grants have been awarded for 2019. Some of the programs based in Monterey include:

- Monterey Library summer children's programs
- Bidwell House summer high school internships
- Monterey Community Chorus
- Council on Aging concert: "Hats Off to Seniors"
- EclectiChorus: "Sing for Joy"
- Songwriting workshops
- Monterey Library's oral history project
- Bidwell House Museum's history talks
- Bidwell House Museum County Fair
- Creating mandalas with seniors

Also being funded are local programs in the area that are open to and benefit all ages from Monterey.

- Flying Cloud Institute after-school programs
- Berkshire Children's Chorus
- Pulse Dance
- Greenagers [Nurturing a new generation of environmental stewards]
- Berkshire Sings and Ukulele Band
- IS 183 Art School
- Music In Common Amplify concert
- Oldtone Native concerts and dances
- Chesterwood's fiftieth anniversary celebration (June 9, 2019, free to local families)
- SculptureNow For Berkshire students
- Music In Common young people's monthly gathering

According to the state guidelines, the local cultural council must have at least five volunteer, active members appointed by the town's select board.

Hope you will participate and enjoy in the many offerings

—Monterey Cultural Council
Wendy Benjamin, Chair;
Cheryl Zellman, Secretary,
Laura Berliner, Wendy Germain,
Harryet Candee

Linda Worster
Singer/Songwriter concert

Enjoy the soulful, sometimes funny, always heartfelt, Linda Worster in concert at the Monterey Community Center, on Sunday, March 17, at 2 p.m. I'd call her style folk/pop acoustic guitar, but her music and lyrics, as well as the other songs she sings—defy categories. She's a Berkshire treasure, and it's a privilege to have her in our town.

The suggested ticket cost is $10 to $20, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Pay what you can, checks are fine, but there is no set-up for credit cards.

For further information about Linda, or to contact her, go to lindaworster.com.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund

Applications Due by March 15

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, supports seniors who are residents of Monterey and are entering their first year at a college or university, as well as prior McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship recipients. Students who have lived in Monterey for the last two years of high school are eligible for scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $7,500, which may include awards over multiple years. Merit is the primary criterion. The majority of BTCF's scholarships accept one Common Application with a few exceptions where noted. For more information, and to apply by March 15, go to berkshiretaconic.org/McLaughlinWilson. Applications and guidelines for all scholarships are available online at berkshiretaconic.org/SearchScholarships.

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund was created in 1994 by Edith Wilson in memory of her long-time friend Marjorie McLaughlin. Ms. Wilson, who was a painter, sculptor, and designer, moved to Monterey in 1942. The scholarship was created as a resource for residents of the Town of Monterey to assist children in a significant way who want to pursue a post-secondary education.

"Monterey is a spirited village where intelligent children grow. Miss Marjorie McLaughlin and I have enjoyed their progress over the past half-century. It is now my privilege to give the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund to aid Monterey's young adults in their future education. Good life and good luck!"—Edith Wilson

In 2018, the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund awarded $74,000 to eighteen students.

2018 High school graduates:

- Marya Makuc, Mt. Everett Regional School, College of the Holy Cross
- Ariana Saporito, Monument Mountain Regional High School, Salve Regina University
- Donovan Sawyer, Mt. Everett Regional School, Nichols College
- Evan Sylbert, Bard College at Simon's Rock

Renewals:

- James Allentuck, Boston College
- Chelsea Balestro, University of Central Florida
- Julia Bronson, St. Lawrence University
- Isabel Bronson, Vassar College
- Matthew Brown, Maine College of Art
- Ella Carlson, Smith College
- Maya Finston-Fox, Baldwin Wallace University
- Katrina Fitzpatrick, Westfield State University
- Lauren Gilderdale, Westfield State University
- Jacob Makuc, UConn Storrs
- Justin Makuc, College of the Holy Cross
- Joseph Makuc, Ursinus College
- Claudia Martin, Massachusetts College of Art and Design
- Shayna Sawyer, University of Rhode Island

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Children's Clothing and Book Drive

During the month of March at the community center, gently used shoes, clothing, and books will be collected in support of Cradles to Crayons. Cradles to Crayons provides necessities for children all over Massachusetts. This drive is part of spring service, one of three service projects led by Project 351 ambassadors and alumni. I will write more next month about my experience as a participant in the Project 351 program.

—Nadia Makuc

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Fiber Connect Update

Fiber Connect was the sole respondent to Monterey's Request for Proposal for Broadband Service. After reviewing our bid, the broadband committee recommended acceptance to the select board. Their recommendation was based on their belief that Fiber Connect had either satisfactorily addressed or expressed their willingness to work with the town and the select board on issues deemed important to the town's broadband network. The select board has taken up the task to negotiate an agreement. This is a necessary step towards the state releasing the $1.1 million dollars earmarked for building a broadband network in Monterey.

Phase 2

We have, as of mid-February, begun providing broadband service to the Cronk Road and Chestnut Hill Road area. Yet most of Monterey's Phase 2 remains in the make-ready stage. After approximately a year devoted to negotiations for space on utility poles, we are making progress. However, problem poles still exist and their location is critical to our pathway between our head end (where the centralized control equipment is) and areas west of Fairview Road. At the start of 2019, we took steps allowing us to bypass problem poles by placing our poles to which we'll attach our fiber. We secured a general easement agreement with the town allowing us to place poles or lay conduit within the town's public ways. Fiber Connect is still required to submit individual placement requests, to notify abutters, and to participate in a public pole hearing before an actual "grant of location" is granted. Recently Fiber Connect followed this process and received grants of location to place several poles on Mt. Hunger Road, Hupi Road, and Fairview Road.

Pre-Construction Installation Discount

Fiber Connect has always offered a pre-construction promotional discount for installation cost to subscribers who sign up and complete a service agreement prior to Fiber Connect mobilizing construction crews to a build neighborhood section.

Fiber Connect

The scene above illustrates some of the issues of the make-ready stage on the utility poles with various cables needing code-specified spacing.

Having an advanced commitment from subscribers allows Fiber Connect to more efficiently deploy and utilize resources. As a result, Fiber Connect can pass that savings along by offering up to a $500 installation promotion. To date, Fiber Connect has had more than 50% of our subscribers benefit. Please take advantage of these promotions and register on our website as early as possible by visiting bfcma.com. We look forward to you joining the Fiber Connect family.

Promotional Pricing and Plans

Fiber Connect offers three different residential package plans and one business plan. You'll find more pricing details on our website, bfcma.com.

Fiber Connect encourages you to visit their Facebook Page (facebook.com/FiberConnectBerkshires/) for promotional pricing announcements as well as other company news. We also encourage you to join the newly-formed, moderated Google Group, Monterey Community, for news from us (apply to Chris Blair, Christopher.blair@gmail.com). You can sign up for our newsletter on our website's home page, bfcma.com. And, when our trucks roll into a neighborhood, look for printed announcements distributed to premises.

—Adam Chait, CEO
Fiber Connect

News from the Roadside

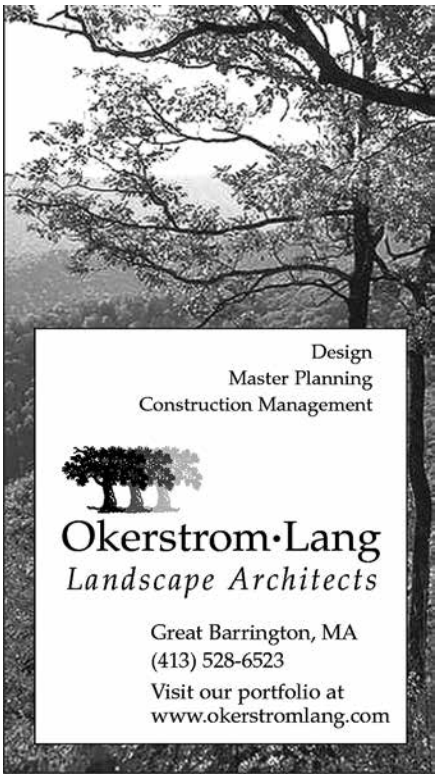
The team at the Roadside is happy to announce lunch specials. By popular demand, we are bringing back our delicious tuna salad, egg salad, and ham-and-swiss sandwiches. Each is served on your choice of Harvest Barn bread with chips and a pickle for $6.50. Also, the ever popular "cubano" served with chips, beef or bean burritos, and the Roadside burger, at very affordable lunch prices. And we have our regular menu, especially our famous pancakes and omelets.

Yes, the rumors are true. Starting February 27, we will be offering Roadside dinner specials. Make your life easy—stop by, pick up, and heat up dinner and enjoy. Great for our working families and weekenders. March specials include beef stew, macaroni and cheese, meatloaf and mash, and beef chili. Any requests or suggestions are welcome.

Our mission at the Roadside is to accommodate our local patrons, daily workers, and weekenders by providing good affordable meals. We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesdays through Saturdays, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Roadside, where life is sunny side up.

—The Roadside Team



News From Rawson Brook Farm

To my valued customers,

Thirty five years in and I'm ready to downsize my farm. I need to shorten my fourteen-hour work days. The next birthday for me is number seventy!

To those of you who say—"But why? Just hire more help!"

I answer—I would then need to go get a job in order to earn enough money to pay for more help. That is the nature of this small farm business.

This is, and always has been, a labor of love for all of us here at Rawson Brook Farm.

This is what it will look like this upcoming season:

~I sold a bunch of goats a few months ago. Just twenty milkers left.

~To achieve the shortened day, we will switch to once-a-day milking. It is an experiment. Not many commercial dairies try it.

~I will be making cheese just twice a week instead of every other day as I have all these years.

~The farm will produce about 175 pounds/week. Historically we have made 350-550 pounds/week.

~In order to try and cover costs, I will have to sell as much cheese as I can at a retail price. (Stop down!)

~That means I will sell it primarily from here at the farm and at the Saturday morning Great Barrington Farmer's Market.

Susan Sellew

A kid chorus line. There will still be kids for kids to visit, just fewer, singing their a cappella *songs.*

Bottom line….Monterey Chèvre will no longer be available every where you shop in the Berkshires—I am so sorry.

Last week I headed out with the intention of explaining this in person to each of you who have sold my cheese for so many many years and who I think of as family. After the first stop, I realized I wasn't going to be able to do it. I was a mess. It was too hard. I turned around and went home—so here it is in writing.

Onward…

—Susan Sellew

(This is a copy of a letter I sent out to all the places that have been selling or using my cheese. I thought you, my friends and neighbors in Monterey, might like to hear this news from me.)

Hannah Jacobson-Hardy

Editor's note: To get to Rawson Brook Farm, turn south off Route 23 down New Marlboro Road. Drive all the way down, turn left across the bridge over Rawson Brook, and the farm is less than half a mile on the left. Susan's cheese is sold out of her milking room by the honor system.

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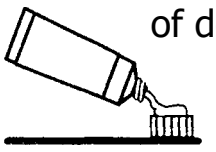

528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Stopping for Death

I

Because I could not stop for death
He would not stop for me
And left me kind of hanging here
As if upon a tree.

So now I'm stuck with life itself
For better or for worse.
But I am free to live my life
As if within a hearse.

II

Because I could not stop for death
He kindly stopped for me.
And had me in to his domain
For crumpets and for tea.

And then he bade me take a hike
For now was not my time.
I guess I'll have to wait awhile
Before the church bells chime.

III

You know that I can't stop for death,
I'm busy as a bee.
With lots of tasks I must complete
Before I can just be.

So death will have to wait awhile—
I've just too much to do.
He'll have to call on someone else,
Perhaps it will be you.

IV

I tried to stop for death one time—
He would not stop for me.
I put my head inside a noose,
The knot slipped—I fell free.

To thank the Gods of Providence
Who gave me one more chance
To walk upon the earth again,
Perhaps I'll learn to dance!

—Kit Patten

Neighbor (for F. R.)

you finally let go this morning, Frank,
leaving this endless toil to the rest of us,
just before Johnny said he'd leave the key
under the rusty star—key to what?
I've always looked to the winter sky
for signs of confirmation
for inspiration, not to the key coded
door lock or the owners manual
but you, Frank, born to the old school
knew how to keep the machines running
and toward the end, hardly able,
your hand on the side of the engine
was all it took, hummin' again!
engine shaman, tractor wizard.

lovely snow falling overnight
underneath the full shaded moon
nothing like the big ones of your
eighty odd winters, but gentle
five inch carpet of captured sunlight
over your landscape, Frank, your homescape
every limb in your forests while lined
just so you'd notice on your way up

clouds thick, the rusty star was hard to find
let alone the key—the key to what?
but when the moon, full, emerged again
it revealed the word you made famous:
neighbor
(the key?)

—Boney Oscar
February 2019

The poet noted, "Here's one for an Otis "institution", a good man, father, husband, and neighbor.

Library News

Construction Update

As you may have noticed, work on the construction has been continuing throughout the winter. Plumbing, electrical, and heating systems installations are moving right along and insulating has begun. In fact, so has sheetrock installation. The shelves are being worked on in shops and the trustees have begun furniture selection. Follow the blog on the Montereymasslibrary.org site and you'll see the latest.

Temporary Library

Until the new building is open, don't forget that we are a full service library at the fire station now. We have about 90% of our total collection accessible, and there is no change in delivery from other libraries. CWMARS and COMCAT are still providing us with the books, videos, audios, music, and downloadables that we always had. We have two desktop computers with printing capabilities and two iPads for public use as well. Our WiFi is also available there whether we are open or not.

While our location is temporary, we are still maintaining the same hours as always. And if you haven't been in since we opened in the fire house last year, you can come and look through the plans for the library renovation.

New Library Apps

Some of you have been using mobile apps to access the CWMARS system. We have the Boopsie app which includes our calendar. There is a new CWMARS app which is good for both Apple and Android. It is found at the app store under "CW Mars libraries." One of the new features is that if you forget your card you can click on show card. Your barcode will show on your phone. You'll be able to search for items and place holds on those items from your phone. Of course, you'll also be able to download anything you find that is in electronic version as well.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

From the project blog, posted February 22
Above: Carpenters installing the semi-rigid two-inch-thick rockwool insulation over a waterproof covering. The rockwool does not absorb water, and does not burn. This is an extremely effective insulation barrier, preventing considerable heat loss through the wood framing.
Below: The windows and exterior doors are all installed in the new section, and the exterior walls and some interior walls are insulated. The children's area is in the far area to the right.
Photos by Mark Makuc, and can be seen along with many more on the MontereyMass Library.org building project blog.

Monterey Library www.montereymasslibrary.org 413-528-3795

Monterey News
2019 Annual Fund Appeal

We are approaching our annual spring fund appeal upon which we rely for most of the upcoming year's budget (beyond our advertising revenues). Folks who give at other times of the year also really help keep us afloat. The entire *Monterey News* board wants to express their appreciation for the continued, nearly fifty years of support the community has given the paper.

February 2019 Contributors

Michelle Marwill
Robert & Janice Adams
Andrew Somers

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Community Potluck Dinner
March 20

A dozen stalwart neighbors braved the sleet and snow for the February potluck (I was inside, didn't even realize it was messy outside!) to hear Dawn Lemon from The Resource Inc. present the intricacies of the Monterey Housing Rehabilitation Grant/Loan program. Thanks to Joe Baker, resident web guru, she was able to use a PowerPoint presentation to explain how many of us here in Monterey could use this help to make our homes more livable, eco-friendly, and safe at no cost to us! You can reach her at 413-645-3448 at their office in GB. (For more information, see the February *Monterey New*s.)

For next month, a little change in focus. Please join us on Wednesday, March 20 when Lissa McGovern, Ginny Miller, and Valerie Zantay will be presenting at the March pot luck supper. The topic will be El Camino de Santiago.

Last summer Valerie and Lissa walked 315 miles of this historic pilgrimage in Spain, and Ginny joined them for part of the way. They will be giving an historic overview, presenting slides, showing a documentary filmed by Valerie and edited by Nick Barbieri, a talented student at Monument Mountain, as well as answering questions. This talk would be of interest to anyone of any age who likes to walk, folks interested in travel and history and people interested in wellness and especially healing after loss. It promises to be fun and engaging.

The next Monterey Community Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 20 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce

Here's a Thought...

The seed for this article, and the series of thoughts and photos that will follow it, was planted years ago. The soil the seed grew in is made of the forests, fields, and shaded city streets of my childhood, fertilized by my questions about meaning, family, roots, and all the people and places that brought me our shared forests, fields, and quiet main street here in Monterey.

These parallel fascinations, family and trees, twine experience and metaphor together in my memory, and in my daily experience. They continue to pull me deeper while they anchor both me and my history in here and now. Happily they often also answer the question, What to write?

The seedling moment that popped up, searching for space and sunlight as this article, was the sight of that glorious sycamore. I've driven past her, and appreciated her strength, beauty, and longevity for forty years. But I looked up at her that day last month, and saw her differently than before. She seemed to be radiating wholeness.

Leafless, valiant, full-branched, her vitality practically shimmered in the bright February cold. I could feel, or imagine, the interior activity that will show up for us as new green leaves. These, in turn, will become a full summer canopy of little change agents, all quietly nurturing the tree and offering us oxygen. My heart filled with gratitude, and her beautiful symmetry sang out to me.

That's a tree as a tree should be, I thought. Her branches reach out to the world as if they're a living sphere.

She apparently never had to vie with other trees for space and sunlight, or else she outgrew her competition in her youth. What really startled me, though, was that the sycamore didn't seem to have ever been carved away on one side to accommodate electric wiring.

Many of our younger, smaller, roadside trees are literally lopsided. Branches get lopped off, sometimes radically, to keep the lines intact without destroying the tree. It's a wise decision. It just makes the roadside trees which haven't undergone extreme surgery somewhat unusual.

This glorious sycamore (thanks for the tree I.D., Bonner) stands on the right side of Route 23 in Great Barrington, just before the right turn for McDonald's, Price Chopper, The Bookloft, or another of the stores in that plaza. You probably know exactly the tree I mean.

In some ways we're like the trees along our roadways. There are holes in people, families, and family trees, too. Some are carved by necessity, some to make way for pride, or prejudice; others are created by social conditions, or other crises. And some are made by love. Sometimes the causes and conditions overlap. But, like our trees along our highways, many—perhaps most—people continue to grow, even thrive. Some folks even exude that same sense of well being expressed by that sycamore.

And, by the way, that 225-year-old sycamore's had some help maintaining her wholeness through the years. Most recently, in 2012, deadwood was removed for her health and our safety by Haupt Tree Company. After all, getting help and being whole aren't mutually exclusive. Who gets by without help?

Nobody I know. How about you?

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Native Maple Sugaring
Bidwell House Museum

Rob Hoogs

Did you know that the Stockbridge Indians who lived in Stockbridge and Great Barrington came to Monterey and Tyringham to make maple sugar? Did you know that Native Americans often called late winter "maple moon" or "sugar moon?" Maple syrup is ubiquitous in New England now, but for European settlers it was a new flavor introduced to them by the Native Americans. In March, visit the Bidwell House Museum to learn all about maple sugaring through the centuries. Join Rob Hoogs as he demonstrates the Native American techniques for collecting and cooking the sap and then describes how maple sugar was made both before and after contact with Europeans.

After the demonstration, people are invited to drive about two miles to the sugar house at Lowland Farm on New Marlboro Road to see how modern maple syrup is produced, and sample some of this sweet delight. Syrup will be available for purchase.

For the first part of the program park at the museum's parking lot along Art School Road. Dress for the weather; if there's deep snow, snow shoes might be helpful. We plan to hold this event at the museum in mid- to late-March, depending on weather conditions and when the sap starts to run. Check the museum website and Facebook page in early March for the date and time of the event. This event is free, but donations are welcome.

Are you interested in history? Do you like being involved in the local community? Are you or your friends looking for volunteer opportunities this summer? If so the Bidwell House Museum may be the perfect place for you. Whether you are interested in helping with summer programs, working on the trails, or giving house tours, the museum would like to invite you to be a volunteer. If you are interested in becoming involved, please call 413-528-688 or email at bidwellhouse@gmail.com.

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road, Monterey, MA and is open for house tours from Memorial Day until October. The grounds are open all year. Lowland Farm is located at 129 New Marlboro Road, Monterey, MA. For more information, please call 413-528-6888 or go to bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Happy Spring everyone.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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Wildcats, Panthers, Jaguars—Oh my!

We could make a map of the roads around here and mark the places where a local observer has seen a big cat cross the road. "Cross" is not the word most of these folks use, though. They describe a leap or a bound, from one side of the road to the middle, and then a mighty jump right to the other side. These accounts have so many similarities I wish we had a road marker with an image, like the ones we see alerting us to the possible presence of "Slow Children" or salamanders or ducks. Even if we don't see the pokey kids as we motor cautiously by, or the salamanders or the ducks, we do entertain the possibility. We can imagine, stir our hearts for a few minutes.

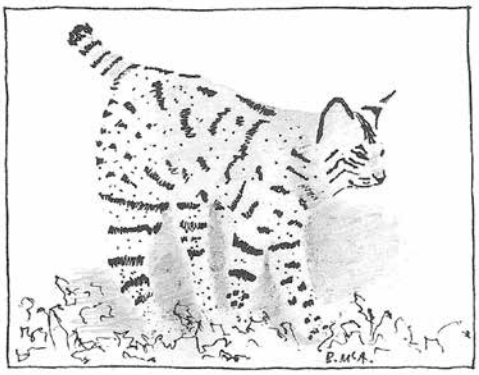
As social creatures, we talk to each other, comparing our lives and experiences. Most of us enliven our accounts a bit, just to stand up and show excitement. Our eyes sparkle, our vocal cadence gets spiffy, putting in audible exclamation points and italics. We wave our arms around, pause for drama. This is because we have experienced real action in the world, right here, right where a great cat jumped across the road and into the woods. We want to tell about it, live it again, bring a listener along with us in this marvelous life.

In sheer eagerness and crescendo, we may build it up. Maybe add things we heard somewhere else and have linked to what we saw just because that's the job of the raconteur. That's how you carry the gift of experience and put it out to others, also to yourself once again.

The person listening has experience and imagination, too, and will add these to the mix. Pretty soon what began with a cat crossing the road has soared off to wonderful possibilities, informed by myriad elements, too many and too remote to be put into words.

Every time I hear about another mountain lion leaping across Route 23, or Lake Buel Road, or trotting purposefully from east to west across Tyringham Road, I am there. I see it for myself, as only I can do it, even though I have never seen a mountain lion in the wild east of the Mississippi.

Nowadays folks often have a camera at the ready, so if one of these cats holds still long enough, there may be a photograph adding to the account. So far the biggest cats, the mountain lions, have been too much on the move to be caught by a camera.



Bobcats are another kind of creature, much more common hereabouts and less skittish of people. Spotters send in their photographs and their accounts. "Here is a big bobcat at my place, just leaving after having gobbled down a squirrel while I watched." It's show and tell with the visible treasure and the story, the embellishment, including, "and this is how it made me feel. . .!"

The words matter, as we give our accounts, especially as we want to say what kind of cat it was. Now we are in the difficult land of taxonomy, of names, of identifying details. We may know we saw a "panther," and that makes us think right away of "black panthers," and if the light was poor we may conclude that this is what we saw. Panther is a perfectly good common name for many a type of cat. The scientific Latin generic name for many species of large cats is *Panthera*. In this group right now we have lions, leopards, tigers, and jaguars. Also snow leopards, which are sometimes called "ounce cats," but I don't know why. Their scientific name is *Panthera uncia*, and we won't see them here. All the *Panthera* cats can roar, except for the snow leopard.

Our mountain lions are in another group, the Felinae. Their scientific name was once *Felis concolor* but the taxonomists now call them Puma concolor. Puma! A name we can relate to. But these mountain lions, pumas, also called catamounts, cougars, and painters, are not in the taxonomic *Panthera* group and they do not come in black.

There are "black panthers" of course, just not around here. The Black Panther Party started by Bobby Seale and Huey Newton has been gone since the early 1980s. Black panthers among cats are melanistic jaguars or leopards. So far the jaguars never come this far north and the leopards stay in Asia and Africa.

Our bobcats, called by some "wildcats," are cousins to the lynx and they don't roar. They can purr. They are in the *Felinae* group, like the mountain lions, which also can't roar but do purr. Bobcats are much smaller than mountain lions. They are still lots bigger than our domestic cats, but they have short tails and weigh about 30 pounds. The mountain lions can be 200 pounds. They are tawny with a body length of 6 feet, plus a three-foot tail. They can take Route 23 in a double leap, or bound. I feel like I have seen this myself!

—Bonner McAllester

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The Vocal Barred Owl

Two new friendly neighbors, who live nearby on Indian Road of Sconticut Neck in Fairhaven, MA, report seeing a Barred Owl perched during the day on a tree limb above their homes. As avid bird watchers and readers of my wildlife columns in *The Wanderer*, they both stopped me there on my usual afternoon walk to announce the exciting news of this mid-winter visitor.

The Barred Owl gets its name from the deep colored bars on the feathers of its wings and tail. It is also known as the puffy-headed hoot owl, with a large sturdy body streaked and spotted with variegated brown, buff, and white coloring, as in my illustration.

It is very vocal, because in the dead of night, it calls out a startling eight loud hoots. The first four sound like "who—who—who cooks for you?" and the second four end with a southern-sounding drawl " who cooks for you all?" It is one of only three owl species with black eyes. This color is especially adapted for seeing in the dark. The yellow eyes of the Snowy Owl are for diurnal vision of night and day, and orange eyes of the Great Horned, are for the dim light of either dawn or dusk. The Barred Owl's sudden presence here might be explained because only the male of the species migrates short distances. It moves into urban habitat like Indian Road for winter, and then in spring back to thick woodlands. Its diet includes small terrestrial mammals, birds, lizards, and snakes, and also fish, crayfish, and crabs of the shoreline aquatic habitat, down Indian Road at the edge of Little Bay.

When Barred Owls enter mating season towards late winter, they give forth a loud series of howling screams that are quite frightening. Their so-called "caterwauling" sounds like monkeys fighting in the treetops, as in the saying, "two's company and three's a crowd." Mating owls perform aerial acrobatics, while wildly soaring upward in a mating dance, to this unearthly din. Owls subsequently mate and build their nests in the cold of winter. As each egg is laid, they are forced to immediately begin incubating, so the chicks hatch sequentially, resulting in a size difference which can be detrimental to survival of the last to hatch. The youngest chicks are sometimes referred to as "insurance chicks."

Nests can be easily located and identified by finding a number of hairballs all around under the nesting tree. These are indigestible pellets of bone and hair from their diet, regurgitated and spit out to the ground below. Nesting owls have been known to divebomb human intruders approaching a nest of their brood. Consequently, it is better to watch these birds from a respectable distance. I will remember that in my future walks as possibly the third largest owl in New England (after the Snowy and Great -Horned) is watching my every move, as I pass down Indian Road.

Let me conclude my tale of this wise old owl, thought of as nearly human as they keep us awake at night. with their human-sounding conversation. I have tried to paint a natural and mystical picture to enhance our environmental awareness, on our afternoon winter walks.

—George B. Emmons

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From the Meetinghouse

I've heard tell of a woman whose life had come unraveled. It was partly her fault, and it left her in a well of grief and shame. An acquaintance of hers suggested she try going to church. "Why would I do that?" she asked. "I feel bad enough about myself as it is."

Church, it seems, has a tendency to make people feel bad about themselves. Maybe it's our doctrine of sin—that we speak too much of it, or more basically that we get the concept wrong. Maybe it's our often simplistic understanding of people and the situations we people find ourselves in, complicated, tangled as they are, never as cut and dried as we might assume. Maybe it's in the way we engage our sacred texts and tradition, which only pretends at serious, which suggests we don't actually believe it could all hold up under real scrutiny, as if we suspect careful study isn't also a form of devotion. As far as I can tell, though, there's only one legitimate reason "church" should make any of us feel bad about ourselves.

A couple weeks ago, we heard two call stories in worship, the call of Isaiah to prophesy to the people and the call of Jesus to the disciples that they follow him and do the works of love and justice he would do. Both stories remembered those called to be brought to some shame at the sudden presence of the holy. Isaiah sputtered suddenly at the voice of the Lord, "Woe is me—for I am a man of unclean lips and I come from a people of unclean lips!" Simon Peter shouted at the realization that Jesus wasn't just his childhood friend—good old Jesus from good old Nazareth—but was something far more astonishing, "Get away from me, for I'm a sinful man!"

The thing is, neither of these people seems to have been all that bad. Isaiah, perhaps, swore like a sailor and came from a people who all swore like sailors, but nothing more is said about his temperament or manner, and certainly nothing egregious. Simon Peter, though himself something of a sailor, seems not even to have been that reliant on profanity, was just a fisherman going about his fishing duties, if not so successfully that night, when, according to the story, he hadn't caught anything. Really, neither seems worthy of the shame they plunged into, the embarrassment they suddenly felt at their incredibly ordinary imperfections. Really, it seems it was the presence of something altogether out of the ordinary that "made" them feel that way, as much as anyone or anything can "make" anyone feel anything.

When I was younger and was living once again near the beach where I had grown up, a new bagel shop had opened. Owned by a surfer who realized looking and feeling good in a wetsuit probably wouldn't sustain him financially into adulthood, he rehabbed an old fish shack, transforming it into quite a scene, and staffed it with his beach friends all of whom looked ever ready for a wind-and-waves photoshoot.

One morning, when I was leaving with my toasted bagel, I held the door for a man leaving after me. "Wow," he said as I passed him the open door. He looked flustered. "What do you think she sees through those eyes?" he asked.

"Because she's pretty?" I asked, remembering the green-eyed beauty who had handed him his bagel.

"Yeah," he said. "Does everything look beautiful through those eyes? Or does everything look sort of ugly?"

Remembering that as I prepared to preach on the embarrassment that can come of encountering perfection, I was put in mind of a more recent discovery, though from the seventeenth century, George Herbert's poem, "Love." (Below)

The flustered, blushing man wasn't really talking to me, seemed instead concerned with how he had looked to her. He was little interested in my thoughts about it all. But I had them, of course. "Wouldn't it be wonderful," I'd have said to him, "if beautiful eyes saw, recognized beauty everywhere? Wouldn't it be good if beauty lent its beauty to world, if this were indeed one essential quality of beauty—a spirit of generosity and magnanimity, a gaze, a countenance of love?"

I mean, I get it. I get why coming to church might land you in such a state. I get why the uncomplicated beauty of the sanctuary right here in the heart of Monterey, lit by the light of day, leaving you but few ways to hide, might put you in mind of all that makes you ordinary. It does me sometimes. As it happens, I am often a woman of unclean lips, to the degree that once, when I was with my sister going off on some injustice or outrage, she interrupted my diatribe to ask, "You preach with that mouth?" Well, yes, I do, but the sanctuary, the pulpit humbles me into better behavior than that—which is but scratching the surface of all that could bring me to shame.

But I figure all these causes of shame are as interesting about me as they were of Isaiah as far as the Lord was concerned or they were of Peter as far as Jesus was concerned. Neither the Lord nor Jesus argued the point Isaiah and Peter each made—that they were foul-mouthed, that they were lackluster—but neither were they affected by it. It really didn't matter that neither of these men was unmarked by the world. It really didn't matter that neither were "perfect," whatever "perfect" could possibly mean as regards a living creature amidst a world of both constancy and change. What mattered is that they were each to be a vessel of God's love in the world, a messenger of God's word of warning to the world, an apostle of God's energizing hope for the world.

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lacked any thing.

"A guest," I answered, "worthy to be here":
Love said, "You shall be he."
"I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee."
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
"Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve."
"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"
"My dear, then I will serve."
"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."
So I did sit and eat.

Hockey Rink Schedule:

Free Skating: Figure skaters, families, and recreational skaters.
Sundays through Fridays, noon to 7 p.m.
Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Adult hockey:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m.
Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30.

Skate responsibly!
Please shovel before you leave.

For updates—call Parks Commission at 528-1443 x248 (voicemail), or
Facebook—Monterey MA Outdoor-Skating Rink

Steve Snyder

Thanks to a burst of cold weather in mid January, the Monterey, adult, soft puck hockey tradition continued with games on Sunday mornings. The rink has been improved with new LED lights, making it a bit easier for the players to find the hole in the net.

We're amidst the season of Epiphany at church. These are the weeks that span between the season of Christmas and the season of Lent when we prepare for Easter. These are weeks spent contemplating all the ways to understand who Jesus is and why he has come to us, who God is and why we should care. The epiphanies we're invited to experience week after week run the gamut from the miraculous to the mundane, and they might well cause us not only to witness anew the wonder of the divine but also to recognize all the ways that we are not as we would like. Really, these epiphanies might land us in, if not grief and shame as that woman I've heard tell of, then at least embarrassment. Epiphanies of the perfect can do that—open your eyes to all that's imperfect, especially about you.

So, if it's the case that "being in church" brings you a bit low, consider taking that as evidence that you've come close to something wondrous, beautiful; and then let it go, the lowliness, the embarrassment. After all, the more time any of us spends amidst that which we aim to be, the more our aim becomes our now.

That's what will be coming from the meetinghouse this month, a bit of embarrassment and an enfolding countenance of love, beauty shed from beauty as winter lingers and wanes.

—Pastor Liz Goodman

To Be an Introvert

O let me be an introvert,
As happy as can be.
I won't hang out with anyone,
I'll just hang out with me.

O let me be an introvert,
O let me be alone.
And I won't talk to anyone,
Not even on the phone.

O let me be an introvert,
And in my little world.
'Cause in the bliss of solitude,
My true self comes unfurled.

—Kit Patten

February Wildlife Report

February sightings included porcupines, foxes, turkeys, wild cats both middle-sized and large, two kinds of squirrels, and the first two pairs of bluebirds, checking out a nest box. Spring is surely here.

The great big cat was a mountain lion seen by the Stube family as they drove west on Route 23 and passed the Appalachian Trail crossing. Dorothy Stube also told of an earlier sighting about two years back on Lake Buel Road. All the family are certain these were not bobcats, and a neighbor out their way has seen a mountain lion, too, some time back.

The bobcat of the month visited Dennis and Dianna Downing's place and sat out back eyeing the birdfeeder, where seed on the ground attracts squirrels. In the photo Dennis sent, we can see the bobcat peering up into a big tree as he sniffs a branch (at right, top). Dennis writes that the cat is "eyeing two squirrels that 'escaped' by going up the tree. When the bobcat went up the tree, the squirrels escaped by jumping down about twenty feet." Dennis got this exciting drama onvideo.

Also in the squirrel department, we have news that the black squirrel visiting the Edelmans' deck on Hupi Road is now a regular and the family has named her Ebony. Meanwhile, Susan Sellew has been loving the intimate acquaintance of a flying squirrel that met its death in her barn and can now be examined up close, with its very plush fur and amazing "cape" for gliding. Susan took some photographs (at right, bottom two).

Porcupines have surfaced near the community center (tracks) and down by Stevens Pond where Mary Kate Jordan and Bonsai Cox had a porcupine "ambling past the house." Mary Kate writes that it was "not unusual, but delightful."

Wildlife spotters who walk along New Marlborough Road regularly have noticed a main trail for foxes crossing the road, or maybe it is for one fox who crosses here often. There are often fresh tracks. Folks who drive or walk along here have seen an actual fox on this trail, too. It is near a low place where the brook goes under theroad.

Farther west along Route 23, Tom Sawyer recently saw a fox near his driveway, sometime after sunset.

Those bluebirds mentioned earlier were reported by Noel Wicke, who lives at Gould Farm. She says this is the earliest they have returned to house-hunting by her place.

Generally people are reporting fewer birds at their feeders this winter than usual, but Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen, "watched two large groups of turkeys heading towards each other" in a field along their road. "It was like a turkey conclave, we counted about forty individuals in the two groups, which then spread out and mingled with each other."

Maureen Banner found a sizable pile of big wood chips at the base of a tree, always a sign of pileated woodpeckers at work. Unless it's beavers, but this was great big woodpeckers (at right, middle upper).

Thanks as always, folks, for keeping these stories coming in. We all like to be in touch with each other, and with the wild.

—Bonner McAllester
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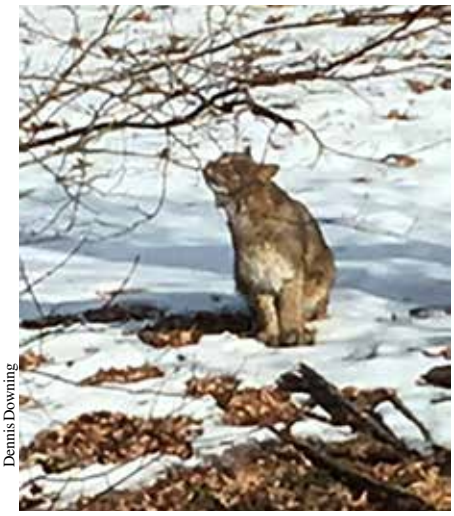

Dennis Downing

Maureen Banner

Susan Sellew

Susan Sellew

In My View

Roads and Bridges.

Wow—I often wonder after writing a piece for the *Monterey News* if anybody took the time to read it. For those who know me, you know what a struggle it is for me to put words to paper. Sometimes I hear no comments but this time I discovered a topic that it seems everyone in Monterey has an opinion on. Dirt roads. Who would have thought it?

Last month I proposed the possibility of paving some of our dirt roads because of the ongoing maintenance cost, especially with the winter weather we have experienced the last couple of years. Lots of great opinions, complaints, suggestions, and high-fives for our embattled highway crew, but a common theme was cost vs. nostalgia. Most love the dirt roads, don't want to give them up, but question how we can continue maintaining them given the changing weather conditions. Maybe that's too optimistic. There was a clear but totally unofficial vote for keeping the dirt roads with a real concern about increasing costs for maintaining them. Montereyans value our dirt roads because we consider ourselves a rural community and they fit the image. Not a few of you pointed out the lower speed required and a better quality of life living on a dirt road. It was pleasant to hear how highly regarded our highway department is, and the many "thank yous" expressed for not only the winter plowing but the continuous maintenance the highway department performs. After hearing from so many, what struck me was the lack of information I had when questions were asked. It's not that the information on costs, equipment, procedures, etc. is not available, it's that the format is missing. So, to begin, rather than re-invent the wheel, as they say, I went to my trusty researcher, Google (it was through Google that we discovered you could rent a bridge and have it delivered to site), and pulled down a few research studies that focused on gravel road maintenance, cost, and any comparisons between asphalt and gravel.

Each of the studies I reviewed showed a lower maintenance cost for gravel roads, but the difference is lessening each year. Not only are the freeze/thaw cycles during the winter increasing—Monterey has had the grader out four times so far this winter vs only once three years ago—the quality of the asphalt used for paving has deteriorated with the enforcement of EPA regulations.

We used to expect fifteen to twenty years out of a paved road surface, but it's now down to ten to fifteen years. All of this makes it hard to take the numbers available and plug them into a ten-year plan. It also makes it hard to make a decision on changing a road from gravel to asphalt.

Monterey has fifty-two miles of roadway evenly split between dirt and asphalt. To take a mile of one of our dirt roads and pave it costs between $400,000 and $600,000. A very large number especially when you consider that the state would not be reimbursing the town because it is a town road. They are our responsibility. It is interesting to point out that the Massachusetts highway system ranks fifth-worst in the country, and it's sliding downhill.

Cont. on page 26

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the Monterey News to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc.

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, March 4 and 18, at 4 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, March 13, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Mondays, March 11 and 25, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, March 14, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, March 6, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, March 14 and 28, at 7 p.m.

Select Board: Wednesday, March 6, at 9 a.m., and March 20, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

All meetings will be held in the town hall unless otherwise noted.

Town Hall Closings

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

Our new website will be online sometime early- to mid-March. Our current platform could not keep up with changing website requirements and required that an upgrade be made to allow us the ability to add a level of security to the site that it didn't have before. The upgraded site will also comply with ADA regulations that have increased since our original website was implemented. Our new platform will also provide the mobile experience constituents are looking for.

—Carol Edelman, Chair
Kenn Basler and Don Coburn
Monterey Select Board
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(don@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov.

Roads and Bridges, cont. from page 25

A study by The Reason Foundation, a Los Angeles-based think tank, ranks Massachusetts as 46th out of the 50 states in highway performance—one spot worse than what it was in previous years. According to the study, Massachusetts spent an average of $675,939 per state-controlled mile—a figure exceeded by only Florida and New Jersey.

By comparison, here are the costs from the other New England states:

Maine	$ 83,000
New Hampshire	$197,000
Vermont	$171,000
Rhode Island	$419,000
Connecticut	$500,000

The national average in 2016 was $160,997 per state-controlled mile. The costs typically include capital and bridge spending, maintenance expenditures, and administrative costs.

Boggles the mind when you think of what we are able to accomplish in Monterey.

Where do we go from here?

Last year our highway department purchased a mapping program designed to give us an overview of our roadways. It is enabling us to prioritize our maintenance program, identify roads that need to be resurfaced, culverts and bridges that need work, and a clear schedule of repair/replace over the next ten years. Our plan is to:

1. Inventory the roads.

2. Assess the condition of the roads. Develop simple and easy techniques to use each year. Maintain a continuing record of the assessed condition of each road so that changes in condition can be noted easily and quickly.

3. Develop a road management plan. Select the most appropriate treatment to repair each road, bridge, or problem area.

4. Determine overall needs. Estimate the cost of each repair job using generalized average costs and tally up the total. Establish long-range goals and objectives that in turn will help us justify the budget requests.

5. Establish priorities. Keep good roads in good shape (preventive maintenance) and establish a separate budget, or request a temporary increase, to reconstruct really bad roads.

As we compile an accurate record of time and maintenance costs for each road, we will be better able to assess the needs and predict the budget requirements in the future. The compiled information will allow us to answer the questions raised and make decisions that will protect our roads now and in the future. As we collect this data we will make it available to our residents and together we will make the informed decisions necessary. Next month I will attempt to give an overview of what it costs Monterey to maintain a gravel road vs. an asphalt road, and a closer look at our mapping program.

Bicycle Committee

We had a good response on the request for participation on a bicycle committee. A number of second homeowners want to be included, so we are scheduling the first meeting for Saturday, March 9, at 10 a.m., in town hall. The meeting will focus on the pluses and minuses of bike riding in Monterey, areas of concern, what should be the town's focus when it comes to bikes, etc.

All are welcome. Any questions—email me at kenn@montereyma.gov.

Thanks for reading.

— Kenn Basler
Select board member

March Calendar

Sundays: March 10 and March 17: Robin O'Herin songwriting workshop. 6:30 p.m., community center. See page 10.

Tuesdays:

Chair yoga, with Connie Wilson, 9 a.m., community center. Sponsored by the parks commission.

Cards and games, 1 p.m., community center.

Folk chorus, 7 p.m., community center. See page 10.

Thursdays:

March 7 and 21: Darn Yarners, 1 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 8.

March 7 and 21: Ping pong, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., community center. See page 8.

Fridays: Cards and games, 1 p.m., community center.

Saturdays: March 2, 16, 30: Ping pong, 2 to 4 p.m., community center. See page 10.

Saturday, March 9: Bicycle committee, 10 a.m., town hall. See page 26.

Saturday, March 16: Lenox Contra Dance. Live music with Hen of the Woods, Jon Greene calling. 8 to 11 p.m., beginners session at 7:45. All dances taught. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. Lenox-ContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007.

Sunday, March 17: Linda Worster in concert. 2 p.m., community center. See page 10.

Wednesday, March 20:

Monterey News deadline.

Community potluck supper, 6 p.m., church basement. See page 5.

Saturday, March 23:

Democratic party caucus, 10 a.m., church basement.

Republican party caucus, 1:30 p.m., church basement. See page 2.

Monday, March 25: Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., community center. See page 10.

Council on Aging

Our movie this month is *Hidden Figures*, the story of three brilliant women behind the scenes at NASA, who were responsible for getting John Glenn into space. It will be shown on Tuesday, March 12, at 7 p.m., in the town hall. Popcorn will be served.

Friday, March 15, there is a bus trip to the New England Flower Show at the Seaport Trade Center in Boston. $92 includes the bus trip and admission to the show. Contact First Choice Tours at 800-730-9091 to reserve a seat. The bus leaves at 8 a.m. from the municipal parking lot in Lee, behind the Morgan House on Main Street. Any questions, call Maryellen Brown at 413-528-1598. She suggests you call as soon as possible to get a seat.

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse Wellness Clinic will be Thursday, March 14, at town hall, from 2 to 3 p.m., no appointment necessary.

The Foot Nurse will be at town hall on Thursday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to noon. Please call 413-528-1443, ext 247 for an appointment. The cost is $25.

The Council on Aging meets on the second and fourth Mondays at town hall, at 10 a.m., This month's meetings are on March 11 and 25. There is a regional meeting of Councils on Aging in Otis at the town hall at 10 a.m., on Monday, March 4.

—Kyle Pierce, Chair
Council on Aging, 413-528-9213

Escaping the Flock, *mourning doves below a feeder —Bonsai Cox*

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

To subscribe to a printable monthly calendar via email, write to montereynews9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area. Print it (one page) and forward it.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600
center@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org

Highway Department: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency): 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

SBRSD (Schools) 413-229-877

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pgs. 16, 27; George Emmons, p. 21;
Bonner McAllester, p. 20.; Kit Patten, p. 15

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